



# News Release

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## **MEETINGS SET TO OUTLINE RESULTS OF ETHANOL PLANT ECONOMIC STUDY**

For Immediate Release  
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Area farmers and residents will get the chance later this month to hear whether or not a proposed new ethanol production plan in southwestern Idaho makes financial good sense, the Idaho Energy Division announced today.

Proponents of the \$27-million, 15 million-gallon-per-year ethanol plant maintain that it will create a major new source of income for area wheat and corn farmers. Preliminary analysis indicates the plant, would require approximately 5 million bushels of corn and wheat annually. Officials say that represents 25 percent of all the corn and 9 percent of all the wheat grown in southwestern Idaho.

The meetings will be held:

- January 28th in Ontario, Oregon, starting at 6 p.m. at the Four Rivers Cultural Center,. 676 Southwest 5th Avenue; and
- January 29th in Nampa, Idaho, starting at 6 p.m. at the Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third Street South.

“Whether you are a farmer wondering about a new market for your farm products or a private investor wondering whether or not this might be an economic opportunity, these meetings should help answer those questions,” said John Crockett, a state energy specialist involved in the renewable fuels area.

It is anticipated that the plant would be owned by a cooperative of farmers and private investors. The plant would be built in Payette County, probably in the Fruitland area. The economic feasibility study, produced for the Payette County Commissioners, indicates the plant could be profitable for its owners. It would also provide more than a dozen high paying jobs for the area.

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In addition to ethanol, the plant would produce about 48,000 tons of distillers dry grains as a byproduct. The product is a high-grade animal feed used extensively in Idaho dairies and cattle operations. The state currently imports from than half of the DDG is uses, mainly from ethanol plants in Minnesota.

At the meetings, officials who helped produce the report will explain the various elements of the economic feasibility study including markets for the ethanol, market supply for the farm products needed and a discussion of how to proceed.

For more information about the meetings, contact Steve Chapman, Payette County Economic Development Coordinator, (208) 642-0500.